

MOBILE – Efforts to repair Alabama’s transportation infrastructure are continuing with work going on nearly around the clock since Hurricane Katrina made landfall.

The Alabama Department of Transportation is reporting the following road conditions:

- ALDOT officials restored both westbound lanes of the Wallace Tunnel this morning, and expect to restore both eastbound lanes later today. The tunnels since Monday have been restricted to one lane in each direction with pumping equipment in the other lanes to expel floodwaters from the ventilation and drainage shafts under the driving surface.
- ALDOT officials expect to open the Causeway eastbound by late Friday. The ramp bridge from the U.S. 90 Causeway eastbound onto Interstate 10 eastbound will remain closed for an extended period because five concrete spans must be replaced. These 50-foot spans were destroyed by storm surge. There is no timeline or cost estimate, but officials will work as quickly as possible to achieve this repair.
- State Road 193 – the Dauphin Island Parkway is expected to be fully open by Saturday morning. Crews are repairing washouts and shoulder damage.
- The fiber optic cables to the I-10 traffic information signs sustained major damage. Extensive repairs are necessary and this traffic information system will be out of service for an extended period until repairs are made.
- Officials expect to fully open State Road 182 – Beach Road in Gulf Shores by late Thursday evening.
- Fort Morgan Road is fully open to traffic with debris cleanup and sand removal continuing in some places.
- ALDOT officials continue to urge motorists, especially local traffic, to take the Bankhead Tunnel or the Cochrane-Africatown USA Bridge as an alternate to the Wallace Tunnels on Interstate 10.
- Road conditions are available on the ALDOT web site at www.dot.state.al.us. The call volume to the ALDOT information line

has dropped off during the day on Thursday. Friday will be the last day the information line will be staffed. The toll-free number is 1-888-588-2848, and recorded information still will be available.

FERRY DAMAGED; REPAIRS COULD TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS

MOBILE – Hurricane Katrina damaged the state's *Fort Morgan Ferry* that provides round-trip passage across Mobile Bay from Fort Morgan to Dauphin Island.

State Department of Transportation officials inspected the ferry today. A damage assessment is being conducted to determine the extent of repairs that will be necessary.

While the damage assessment is not finished, officials expect it will be at least a few weeks before repairs can be completed. It will be necessary to perform the repairs at a dry-dock facility. The ferry dock in Fort Morgan also sustained minor damage, but officials say those repairs can easily be made before the ferry repairs can be completed. The repairs consisted of erosion and toppled fences and traffic control barriers.

This is the second time in less than a year the ferry service experienced a major disruption because of a hurricane. The ferry only returned to service on June 15 after Hurricane Ivan halted ferry service for about nine months because of extensive damage to the Fort Morgan dock. The Department of Transportation took over in May and repaired the Fort Morgan dock and renovated the ferry in time for the summer season.

Ferry operators on Sunday, August 28, carried the ferry to hurricane anchorage at Harrison Brothers Shipyard up the Mobile River. The damage to the ferry was discovered Tuesday, but transportation officials have directed resources toward restoring the surface transportation system until today's inspection.